Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 05509 131136Z

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ACTION NEA-05

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FOR NEA/IAI

E O 11652: N/A TAGS: OGEN, IS

SUBJECT: DRAFT REMARKS FOR AMB KEATING

FOLLOWING IS DRAFT OF ARRIVAL STATEMENT FOR AMB KEATING:
"IT'S WONDERFUL OF YOU TO HAVE COME OUT THIS WARM DAY TO WELCOME
ME. I WOULD HAVE BEEN HERE SOONER AS A CONTESTANT IN THE
MACCABIAH GAMES, BUT THE COACH OF OUR SWIMMING TEAM SAID I
DIDN'T LOOK ENOUGH LIKE MARK SPITZ TO QUALIFY.

" IF MY RECOLLECTION IS RIGHT, THIS IS MY 10TH TIME IN ISRAEL.
I COME NOW TO REMAIN A WHILE AMONG YOU, AND IN THIS THOUGHT, I
AM VERY PLEASED. IN FACT, PRESIDENT NIXON'S DECISION TO SEND ME
TO ISRAEL IS -- FOR ME, PERSONALLY -- THE HAPPY CULMINATION OF
DECADES OF DEEP INTEREST IN THIS ANCIENT LAND AND AN ABIDING
AFFECTION FOR ALL ITS PEOPLE.

"THERE IS NO DOUBT IN MY MIND -- AND IN THE MIND OF OUR PRESIDENTH -- WHICH OF MY TASKS ARE FOREMOST. THEY REMAIN AS FIRM AS THEY WERE 25 YEARS AGO WHEN ISRAEL JOINED THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS: TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE STRONG FRIENDSHIP AND CONFIDENCE BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS, AND TO CONTRIBUTE, AS WE ARE ABLE, TO THE BUILDING OF A DURABLE AND JUST PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. "MY DISTINGUISHED PREDECESSOR, AMBASSADOR WALWORTH BARBOUR, GAVE GREATLY OF HIMSELF TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE GOALS. I CONSIDER MYSELF FORTUNATE THAT I HAVE BEFORE ME THE EXAMPLE OF HIS UNRELENTING DEDICATION.

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"THIS LAND IS NOW EMBARKED ON THE SECOND QUARTER OF A CENTURY

SINCE ITS MODERN REBIRTH AS ISRAEL. AMERICA'S AFFINITY FOR ISRAEL TOUCHES BOTH UPON ITS OLDNESS AND NEWNESS -- ON THE ONE HAND, FROM THE PROFOUND RELIGIOUS LINKS WE HAVE WITH THIS COUNTRY; ON THE OTHER, FROM OUR ADMIRATION FOR ISRAEL AS A DEMOCRATIC, PIONEERING AND SELF-RELIANT NATION.

"I LOOK FORWARD TO LEARNING MORE ABOUT YOUR COUNTRY, ABOUT ITS CONVERGENCE OF GREAT CULTURES, AND ABOUT ITS ASPIRATIONS. I ANTICIPATE -- AND WITH DELIGHT -- TRAVELING THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF ISRAEL TO RENEW OLD FRIENDSHIPS WITH OUR LEADERS AND TO MAKE NEW FRIENDSHIPS WITH PEOPLE FROM ALL AVENUES OF ISRAELI LIFE.

"I AM DELIGHTED TO BE AMONG YOU."

"TO-DAH-RA-BAH (THANK YOU VERY MUCH)"

"TO-DAH-RA-BAH (THANK YOU VERY MUCH)." ZURHELLEN

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